

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of :  
KITCHEN, et al. : Expected  
: Group Art Unit: 2764  
Application No: Unassigned (Rule 53(b):  
Continuation of Appl. Serial No. : Expected  
09/034,561 filed March 3, 1998). : Examiner: R. Alvarez  
:  
Filed: Concurrently herewith :  
:  
For: ELECTRONIC BILL PROCESSING :

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Assistant  
Commissioner  
for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

This preliminary amendment is filed concurrently with the filing of a continuation under 37 USC 1.53(b) of pending Application Serial No. 09/034,561, filed March 3, 1998. Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE TITLE

Please amend the title to read --BILL AVAILABILITY NOTIFICATION  
AND BILLING INFORMATION REQUEST--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 1.

Please add new claims 34-53 as follows:

--34. A method for presenting a bill via a network, comprising:  
transmitting a notice according to an e-mail protocol, via a network, indicating availability of a bill;

transmitting a request according to a protocol other than an e-mail protocol, via the network, to receive the bill responsive to receipt of the notice; and

transmitting the bill, via the network, responsive to receipt of the request.

35. The method of claim 34, further comprising:

formatting the bill for presentation responsive to receipt of the request.

36. The method of claim 34, further comprising:

formatting the bill for presentation prior to transmitting the notice; and

storing the formatted bill;

wherein the transmitted bill is the stored formatted bill.

37. The method of claim 34, wherein the notice includes information indicating a location of the available bill on the network.

38. The method of claim 37, wherein the information indicating a location of the available bill is a hyper-link, further comprising:

selecting the hyper-link to transmit the request.

39. The method of claim 38, wherein the hyper-link is an icon.

40. A method for presenting a bill, comprising:

transmitting, via a network, an e-mail notice indicating availability of a bill;

transmitting, via the network, an e-mail request to receive the bill responsive to receipt of the notice; and

transmitting, via the network, the bill responsive to receipt of the request.

41. The method of claim 40, further comprising:

formatting the bill for presentation responsive to receipt of the request.

42. The method of claim 40, further comprising:

formatting the bill for presentation prior to transmitting the notice; and

storing the formatted bill;

wherein the transmitted bill is the stored formatted bill.

43. A method for presenting a bill, comprising:

transmitting, via a network, a notice indicating availability of a bill, the notice transmitted according to a network protocol other than e-mail;

transmitting, via the network, a request to receive the bill responsive to receipt of the notice, the request also transmitted according to a network protocol other than e-mail; and

transmitting, via the network, the bill responsive to receipt of the request.

44. The method of claim 43, further comprising:

formatting the bill for presentation responsive to receipt of the request.

45. The method of claim 43, further comprising:  
    formatting the bill for presentation prior to transmitting  
    the notice; and  
    storing the formatted bill;  
    wherein the transmitted bill is the stored formatted bill.

46. The method of claim 43, wherein the notice includes  
information indicating a location of the available bill on the  
network.

47. The method of claim 46, wherein the information indicating a  
location of the available bill is a hyper-link, further  
comprising:  
    selecting the hyper-link to transmit the request.

48. The method of claim 47, wherein the hyper-link is an icon.

49. The method of claim 43, wherein the second network protocol  
is the same network protocol as the first network protocol.

50. A bill presentment network, comprising:  
    a first network server configured to transmit, via an e-mail  
protocol, a notice to a payer indicating availability of a bill;  
and

    a second network server configured to receive from the payer,  
via a protocol other than an e-mail protocol, a request to receive  
the bill, the request transmitted responsive to receipt of the  
notice;

    wherein the bill is transmitted to the payer responsive to  
receipt of the request.

51. An system for bill presentment, comprising:

a memory configured to store billing information; and  
a processor configured to transmit a notice to a payer via e-mail indicating availability of a bill and to receive a request from the payer via e-mail for the available bill;  
wherein the request is transmitted responsive to receipt of the notice; and  
wherein the bill is transmitted to the payer responsive to receipt of the request.

52. A system for bill presentment , comprising:

a memory configured to store billing information; and  
at least one processor configured to transmit, via a network protocol other than an e-mail protocol, a notice to a payer indicating availability of a bill, and to receive a request, also via a network protocol other than an e-mail protocol, from the payer to receive the bill;

wherein the request is transmitted responsive to receipt of the notice; and

wherein the bill is transmitted to the payer responsive to receipt of the request.

53. The system of claim 52, wherein the second network protocol is the same network protocol as the first network protocol.--

**REMARKS**

This preliminary amendment is directed to the accompanying 37 CFR 1.53(b) application, which is a Rule 53(b) continuation of pending Application Serial No. 09/034,561, filed March 3, 1998.

Claim 1 is pending in this application, claim 2-33 having been cancelled in the submittal of the Rule 53(b) continuation application. Claim 1 is cancelled by this preliminary amendment.

Claims 34-53 are added herein.

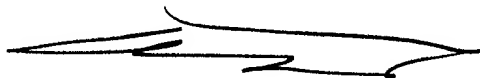
The title is amended to more fully describe the invention.

No new matter is added by this preliminary amendment.

New claims 34-53 are directed to an innovative electronic bill presentation technique disclosed in the written description of the application as originally filed.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed local telephone number, in order to expedite resolution of any remaining issues and further to expedite passage of the application to issue, if any further comments, questions or suggestions arise in connection with the application.

Respectfully submitted,  
LALOS & KEEGAN



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